Poor design of National Highways

1060. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI is not paying any attention to road safety in the design of National Highways;

(b) whether it is a fact that NHAI has poorly designed Highways in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that foreign consultants are used for design; and

(d) if so, the cause for neglect of road safety by the engineers and designers of NHAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. NHAI is paying due attention to road safety in the design of National Highways.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of port at Dhamara (Orissa)

1061. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to construct a port at Dhamara in Bhadrak district in Orissa.

(b) if so, the funds earmarked for the construction of the port; and

(c) the year by which the port is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes Sir. The Government of Orissa have proposal to construct a Port at Dhamara in Bhadrak district. A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into by Government Orissa with M/s. International Sea Ports Pvt. Limited.

(b) Approximately Rs. 1200 crores have been proposed to be invested by International Sea Ports Pvt. Limited for the first phase of the development of the Port.

(c) The first phase of the Port is expected to be completed by 2002.

Development of Indian Water Transport

1062. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Inland Waterway Authority of India (IWAI) to assess future potential of traffic for development of Indian water transport;

(b) the recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee regarding suitability of the Godavari. Krishna and Mahanadi rivers as national waterways for development of navigation to transport cargo economically;

(c) whether extensive surveys and investigations have been carried out on the above waterways; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has carried out Techno-Economic Feasibility studies on almost all potential waterways recommended to be declared and developed as National Waterways by the National Transport Policy Committee which include assessment of future potential of traffic. Assessment of future potential of traffic on declared National Waterways is also available through studies already conducted.

(b) These rivers have been recommended by the National Transport Policy Committee as being suitable for development as National Waterways.

(c) Techno-Economic Feasibility studies have been conducted on these rivers.

(d) Cherla-Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari was found to have potential for development as navigable route.